UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
ENGLISH

A/AC.96/846/Part I/4
11 August 1995

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART I. AFRICA

Section 4 - Central African Republic

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95- 02766

I.4 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, the Central African Republic hosted 47,781 refugees, comprising 25,889 Sudanese, 21,495 Chadians, 115 Burundi, 245 Rwandans, 14 Angolans, 7 Ugandans and 16 other persons of various other origins. Of the total, 39,738 were assisted. The slight increase in the number of refugees registered in 1994 was due to the arrival of new Sudanese, Chadian, Burundi and Rwandese refugees.

2. The majority of the Sudanese, who form the largest refugee group, belong to the Zande and Balanda ethnic groups, originating from southern Sudan. This population is composed mainly of persons of rural origin. Administrative personnel and members of the professions account for some 10 per cent of the population.

3. As for the Chadian refugees, they are from villages in southern Chad. Most of them arrived in 1993 following the armed conflict that flared up in the southern part of the country. The majority are of rural origin (97 per cent). A very small minority (3 per cent) of the population are former civil servants and teachers.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. Following numerous clashes between the army and armed groups in southern Chad, several hundred refugees arrived in the Central African Republic during 1994. The signing in August 1994 of the Bangui Agreement between the Chadian Government and the Comité de sursaut national pour la paix et la démocratie (CSNPD), one of the armed anti-government factions in southern Chad, put an end to a long period of unrest in that part of the country. Thanks to this development, an operation for the voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees to the southern part of Chad was able to be organized. In order to respond to the many requests for repatriation assistance, an allocation from the 1995 Programme reserve was approved for the repatriation of 6,500 Chadian refugees and 500 Sudanese. At the end of May 1995, a total of 5,722 Chadian refugees, comprising 421 urban cases, had been repatriated. The number of refugees has thus decreased from 47,781 to 42,059 persons.

5. The inflow of Sudanese refugees continued in 1994, but at a far slower rate than in previous years. As a result of the situations in Rwanda and Burundi, there was an appreciable increase in the number of refugees from those countries, rising from 48 at the beginning of the year to 350 at the end of December 1994.

6. The 1994 Sudanese refugee assistance project was revised upwards in order to provide greater support for agricultural activities and give adequate assistance to new refugees.

7. A joint UNHCR/WFP mission comprising Desk Officers from the Headquarters of both agencies, visited the Central African Republic from 18 February to 4 March 1995. The purpose of the mission was to assess the

food situation of the Chadian and Sudanese refugees. Food assistance to Sudanese refugees will continue, but on a reduced basis. As the Chadian refugees have not yet been able to reach a satisfactory level of food self-sufficiency and as the repatriation programme has not developed as planned, UNHCR has asked for food assistance to be extended with full rations.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

8. Improvements in the political situation in Chad suggest that there may be considerable possibilities for repatriation in 1996. On the other hand, the climate of political uncertainty in southern Sudan does not enable a return movement to be envisaged at this stage but, on the contrary, might possibly give rise to a further inflow of refugees into neighbouring countries, in particular the Central African Republic.

9. In this context, the continuation of assistance to Sudanese refugees in Mboki and of the repatriation of Chadian refugees remain the main objectives for 1996. Until such time as prospects materialize for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees, the objective consists in taking every possible step to help them achieve food self-sufficiency and facilitate their integration through development activities.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

10. For 1996, it is planned to continue care and maintenance assistance covering transport and logistics, domestic needs, water and sanitation, health, shelter, community services, education, agriculture and protection. Mention should be made, however, of the geographical location of Mboki, which lies some 1,200 km away from Bangui. The last 425 km between Bangassou and Mboki are unfit for large trucks all through the year. This results in major logistic problems, excessive transport costs and also a lack of access to the outside market, making it difficult to sell agricultural produce (cash crops) and to carry out microprojects successfully.

11. In so far as repatriation of these refugees cannot be envisaged in the near future, the success of the activities planned hinges on the state of this road which will need to be maintained in order to ensure the regular transport of refugees, provisions and other material assistance.

12. As regards the Chadian refugees, special efforts will be made to encourage repatriation, already begun in 1995, through information campaigns and the granting of appropriate assistance to facilitate reintegration in Chad.

13. Pending the repatriation of all Chadian refugees, the 7,750 persons still in the Boubou and Kagabandoro settlements will continue to be assisted under the care and maintenance project. Urban refugees of every nationality will also receive UNHCR assistance.

14. For 1996, the proposed allocation will serve to finance all the projects for refugees in the Central African Republic, and in particular to support agricultural activities for the Sudanese and Chadians.

(c) Implementing partners

15. Implementation of assistance projects for Sudanese and Chadian refugees, in the hands mainly of the Commission national pour les refugiés (CNR) in 1994, was in 1995 entrusted to the Organisation canadienne pour la solidarité et le dévéloppement (OCSD) and Africare. While the latter has taken over from CNR for the implementation of the health and agriculture sectors of the Sudanese refugee assistance project, OCSD is responsible for the logistics of the entire programme in the Central African Republic. These new arrangements for implementation will be maintained in 1996.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

16. Expenditure for 1994 was lower than the revised estimate. Six local staff posts remained vacant for long periods, thus reducing expenditure under staff expenditure. In addition, certain items of equipment for the Field Offices were not able to be purchased.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

17. Revised requirements for 1995 are higher than initial requirements due to the creation of an international post and four local posts from January 1995, and the need to purchase additional equipment for the Field Offices.

(iii) Initial 1996 (all funding sources of funds)

18. Initial requirements for 1996 are at a similar level to revised requirements for 1995.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,650.5	1,344.2	2,284.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	2,112.5
14.5	45.0	827.2	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	115.7
130.0	78.3	282.4	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	282.4
698.2	767.2	1,151.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,073.8
2,493.2	**2,234.7**	**4,545.4**	**SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**3,584.4**
16.6	47.4	80.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	69.0
2,509.8	**2,282.1**	**4,625.6**	**T O T A L (1)**	**3,653.4**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
54.4	74.5	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
12.4	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various Assistance	–
66.8	**74.5**	**0.0**	**T O T A L (2)**	**0.0**
2,576.6	**2,356.6**	**4,625.6**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**3,653.4**